

ARTICLES
T O B E
INQUIRED OF
I N T H E
DIOCESAN VISITATION
O F T H E

Most Reverend Father in God,

JOHN

By Divine Providence Lord Arch-Bishop of
Y O R K.

Held *Anno Dom.* 1698.

Y O R K,

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ARTICLES

*of Visitation, and Inquiry within
the Dioces of YORK.*

TITUL. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, Church or Chappell-yards, their Ornaments, Utenfils or other things thereto belonging.

1.  S your Church or Chappel Consecrated to the worship of GOD, and decently kept, separate from all Prophane and common Uses? Are the Roofs, Walls, Pavement and Windows thereof, as also your Chancel, in good and sufficient Repair? Are the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and the Creed drawn out in fair Letters, and the Kings Armes decently set up in convenient places? Are the Bells and Ropes, and Bell-Frames thereof in good condition, and fit for publick use? Is no School taught therein?

2. Have you made any *Assessment* for the Reparation of your Church, and other things relating

thereto? And are there any *Parishioners* or others Obligated to contribute, that refuse to pay the proportion Assessed on them? You must present all such:

3: Have you a *Font* of Stone decently covered, standing towards the lower end of the Church for the Administration of *Baptism*? have you a decent *Communion Table*, covered in the time of *Divine Service*, with a Carpet of Silk or other Stuff meet for that purpose, and with a fair Linnen Cloth at the time of Administration; Is it so placed that the *Parishioners* may most conveniently come to Communicate with the *Minister*? And have you a handsome Cup of Silver for the Wine, with a Cover for the same, and a *Patten* to put the Bread on? And have you one or more Flaggons of Pewter, or better Mettle, and all other things necessary for the Celebration of *Divine-service*, and Administration of the Sacraments. As also a decent Bason to receive Almes for the Poor? and other Devotions of the People?

4. Are your Reading Desk, and Pulpit conveniently set up and placed for the use of the Publick Prayer and Preaching? and hath your Pulpit-desk a Cushion or Covering fit thereto? And are the Seats for the *Parishioners* decent and Uniform? Are there none Irregularly Built, to the prejudice of others

others, or defacing the Church? Are your *Parishioners* Placed in them without offence, or contention? If not, Name the particulars.

5. Have you in your Church or Chappel two Books of *Common-Prayer*, of the largest Volume set forth in the Year 1662. One for the *Minister*, the other for the *Clark*, both well and substantially Bound? And have you the Bible in *Folio* fairly Bound of King *James* His Translation, the two Books of *Homilies* set forth by Authority; a Book of *Canons*, and the Book of the 39 *Articles* of Religion? Have you also a decent *Surplice*, one or more, as there is need, for the *Parson*, *Vicar*, *Curate* or *Lecturer*, (If you have any) to wear in time of publick Ministration?

6. Have you a Book of *Parchment*, wherein be Registred the *Christnings*, *Marriages* and *Burials* in your *Parish*, and another of Paper, wherein to Note the Names of Strange Preachers, according to the Injunction of the 29th. Canon? And are they Registred therein accordingly? Was there a Copy of such Register exhibited into the *Consistory Office* at *York*, according to the 70th. Canon? Have you a Book wherein to Write down the *Church-wardens* Accounts, and such Sums of Moneys, as are

Collected upon any *Briefs*? Have you a strong Chest with three Locks, wherein to preserve your *Church Furniture* and these Books, and a Box conveniently placed, for Receiving and securing Almes, given by Charitable Persons, towards relief of the Poor? And have you the Table of Degrees prohibited in *Marriage*, set forth in 1563. And so placed in your Church that any one may come to Read them? Are the House and out-Houses of your *Minister* in good and sufficient Repair? Doth he preserve the *Gardens, Orchards, and Gleabe* thereto belonging, without Selling, Wasting, Changing, or any way damnifying the same? Have any of your *Gleabe Lands* belonging to your *Parsonage* or *Vicarage* been exchanged? Upon what *Termes*? Whether to the benefit or damage of your Church?

7. Have you a perfect Terrier or Survey of the Houses, Tenements, Cottages, Out-houses, *Gardens, Orchards, Meddows*, and other Lands and *Gleabe* belonging to your *Parsonage* or *Vicarage*, setting forth their Buttings and Boundings? Likewise an Inventory or true Note of all such Portions of Tithes, Rents, Pensions, or other Emoluments, as belong to your Church, or Chappel? Are they safely kept, where, and by whom? Are true Copies there-
of

of transmitted into the Registry of the said Arch-Bishop there to be Preserved? If not let it be done with all convenient speed, Signed by the Minister, Church-wardens, and other able Parishioners, and brought to the Visitation.

8. Hath any Augmentation been made to your, Vicarage or Curacy, by any Arch-Bishop, Bishop Dean and Chapter, Prebendary, or other Ecclesiastical Persons, upon their Renewing the Lease of the Rectory, or Tithes Improprate, or Appropriate? Are the said Augmentations duly paid? Or after once paid have they or any of them been detained or withheld? Consult herein the *Act of Parliament* Made in the 29th. Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, Intituled: *An Act for Confirming and Perpetuating Augmentations.*

9. Are there any Hospitals, Alms-houses, or Schools publickly Indowed, within your Parish? If any such? Are they governed according to the true intent of the Founders, and the Revenues thereof managed with care and faithfullness? Is there any Pensions, Stipend or Gifts, made to Pious and Charitable Uses, detained or mis-employed within your Parish, and by whom?

10. Is the Church-Yard decently kept, well Fenced, with

with Walls or Pales to keep out Swine, and other Noyſom Cattel; and no Encroachment made there-upon by Building or otherwise? And are there no Excommunicated Persons ſuffered to be Buried in your Church or Chappel-Yard? You muſt Preſent all ſuch Offences and Defects as are here Inquired of: And if you be Chappel-Wardens, you muſt Preſent all ſuch defects reſpectively, as are in your Chappel, or Chappel-Yard.

T I T U L. II.

Inquiries about the Parſon, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer.

1. **I**S your Miniſter, Lecturer or Curate, (to the beſt of your Obſervation) a Man of a Sober, Chaſt Juſt and Unblameable Life? Doth he uſe Canonical, Modeſt and Decent Apparrel, according to his Ability? Doth he reſort (without juſt cauſe) to Taverns or Ale-houſes, or give himſelf to any baſe and Servile Labour, or to Drinking, or ſpending his time Idely by Day or by Night, in playing at Dice, Cards, Tables, or any unlawfull Games? Doth he (ſo far as you know or have heard) make any Clandefſtine Marriages, either without Banns thrice Publiſhed, or
Lycenſe

Lycense lawfully obtained in that behalfe, or at undue times, that is, before Eight, or after Twelve of the Clock in the Morning, or in undue places celebrate the same, that is in any other place then the Parish Church or Chappel? Doth he (having convenient warning given) refuse to Bury the Dead at usuall times, according to the Order prescribed by the Book of *Common-Prayer*? And doth he Bury any that dye un-Baptized, or be Excommunicated, or have laid Violent Hands upon themselves with that Office? And doth, or hath he made false Certificates of the performance of Penances or Declarations? Present what you know or have heard hereof.

2. Doth your Parson, Vicar or Curate, read the Office of *Common-Prayer* at the accustomed hours of *Morning* and *Evening Service* on *Sundays* and *Holy-days*, and the *Litany* on *Wednesdays* and *Frydays*? And doth he wear the Surplice while he performes those or other Offices as directed in the *Common Prayer Book*? And doth he in time of divine Service upon *Sundays*, bid such *Holy-days* and *Fasting-days* appointed by the Church, as shall happen the week following? Doth he also read the service appointed for the 30th. of *January*, 29th. of *May*, and the 5th. or

B

November

November, with the *Proclamations* relating thereto? and doth he keep Yearly Perambulation in *Rogation* week? Doth he Preach a Sermon every Sunday, or procure a Sermon then to be Preached, or else sometimes Read one of the Homilies, which the Church hath appointed? And doth he preach in his Gown, and before his Sermons, Homilies or Lectures pray for the whole Catholick Church the present King's most excellent Majestie and others according as it is directed by the 25th. Canon for bidding of Prayer. As also observe all Fasting days, and days of thanksgiving appointed by publick Authority:

3. Doth your Minister diligently upon Sundays, and Holy-days after the Second Lesson at Evening-Prayer, openly in the Church Instruct and examine the youth and Ignorant Persons in your Parish in the Catechism set forth in the Book of *Common-Prayer*, and do all Fathers and Mothers, Masters and Mistresses, cause their Children, Servants and Apprentices, which have not learned the Catechism, to come to the Church at the time appointed, obediently to hear, and to be ordered by your Minister untill they have learned the same? And doth your Minister (to the end the People may the bet-

ter understand, and be more thoroughly acquainted with the Doctrine and discipline of the Church of England) publickly Read over unto the People the Book of *Canons* at least once, and the 39 *Articles* twice every Year.

4. Doth your *Minister* Celebrate the Lord's Supper in the Church, according to the Office prescribed in the *Common-Prayer-Book*, so often every Year as that the *Parishioners* may Receive three times yearly at the least, whereof *Easter* to be one? Doth he Baptize such Infants of his *Parish* according to the *Common-Prayer-Book*, (upon warning given before) as are brought in on Sundays, or Holy-days to the Church with *God-Fathers* and *God-Mothers*? Doth he Baptize Infants at home in case of danger and necessity and not otherwise? Doth he Visit the Sick at ther Houses, when upon lawfull summons he is required thereto? Doth he give them the Holy Communion, if duly prepared for it, and desirous of it, and do all such other pious duties as the state of the Sick Person requires? And doth he exhort them to Brotherly Love, and works of Charity, and (if they be able) to bequeath a Portion to Pious uses?

5. Doth your Parson, or Vicar keep a Curate?

is he of good Life, and accounted of sufficient Learning? Is he allowed by the Bishop, and can you tell whether the said Curate have a Competent Allowance according to the Value of the Living? Declare your knowledge herein. Doth your Parish maintain a *Lecturer*? Is he *Licensed* by the Bishop? Doth he Read the *Divine Service* of *Common-Prayer*, the First *Lecture-day* of every Month, wearing a Surplice, and is he present at *Divine-Service* every *Lecture-day*? And doth any who is not a *Deacon* at least (*Episcopally* Ordained) presume to Read the *Common Prayer* in your Church or Chappel, or to Baptize publickly or privately, or to assist in the Administration of the Holy *Communion*, or take upon him to preach or Expound the Holy Scriptures in your Church or Chappel? If the Parson, Vicar or *Lecturer*, fail of their Duty in any of these Inquiries above mentioned, you are to Present him or them so Offending.

6. Have you within your Parish any Assembly of Persons for Religious worship, dissenting from the Church of *England*? How many such Assemblies have you? Are the Doors Lock'd, Barred or Bolted during any time of such Meeting?

7. Have

7. Have the Preachers or Teachers in such Congregations taken the Oathes mentioned in the Statute made in the first Year of His present Majesty King *William*: Entituled; *An Act for removing, and preventing all Questions and Disputes, concerning the Assembling, and Sitting of that Parliament*. Have they also made and Subscribed the *Declaration* mentioned in a Statute made in the 30th. Year of the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, Intituled: *An Act to prevent Papists from sitting in either House of Parliament*. Inquire thereof and tell your knowledge? Have such Preachers or Teachers, being in Holy Orders, or pretending to Holy Orders, declared their approbation of, and subscribed the *Articles of Religion*, mentioned in the Statute made in the 30th. Year of the Reign of the late Queen *Elizabeth*; Except the 34th. 35th. and 36th. and these words of the 20th. Article, viz. [*The Church hath power to Decree rites or Ceremonies, and authority in Controversies of Faith; and yet?*] and also except part of the 27th. Article, touching *Infant Baptism*?

8. Do any of the Persons frequenting such Assemblies, refuse to perform or pay their *Parochial Duties* or any other dues belonging to the Church or Mini-

ser, Do any such Dissenting persons being chosen *Church-Wardens*, or in any *Ecclesiasticall Office*, refuse to undertake the same? If so do they provide a sufficient Deputy that doth comply with the *Law*, on this behalf, such *Deputies* being allowed and approved, by such Person or Persons, in such manner as such Officer and Officers, respectively should by *Law* have been allowed and approved?

9. Is the place of Meeting for Religious Worship (if there be any such within your *Parish*) permitted or allowed by the late *Act* of Parliament, Intituled: *An Act for Exempting His Majesties Protestant Subjects, Dissenting from the Church of England, from the penalties of certain Laws*; Certified to the Bishop of the Diocess, or to the Arch-Deacon of your Arch-Deaconry, or to the Justices of the Peace at the Generall Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County, City, or Place where such Meeting is held, and Registred in the said Bishops, or Arch-Deacons Court respectively, or Recorded at the General or Quarter Sessions? Inquire and Answer accordingly.

TITUL:

T I T U L. III.

Inquirys about the Parishioners.

1. **D**Oe all your Parishioners of due Age resort to Divine Service and Sermons, in your Church on Sundays and Holy days (if they be not reasonably letted) whom do you observe wilfully, negligently or causelessly to absent themselves, or not to come to Church ordinarily till the latter end of the Service, or when it is ended (other then such as are Dissenters and go to some Congregation or Assembly of Religious worship allowed or permitted by the *Act of Parliament afore mentioned*) and that do refuse to receive the Holy Sacrament of the Lords Supper at times appointed by the Law? Or what Persons do you observe who do not bring their Children to be Baptized, or what Women (being safely delivered from the pains and perils of Child-birth) do refuse to return Thanks according to the order of the Church?

2. Do they or any of their Servants Occupy themselves unnecessarily in the servile work of their ordinary Callings on Sundays? Do they open their Shops or sell any Wares on those days? Do Vintners, Victuallers, Inn-keepers, or others receive any into their Houses, to Tiple or waste their time Idly on those days, especially in time of Divine Service, except it be Travelers that are in their Journey upon necessary occasion? Present all such.

3. Do your Parishioners in time of Divine Service, Sermon or Homily, behave themselves Reverently, Men and Youths with their Hatts off, both Sexes giving due attention, none disturbing holy duties, by talking, walking, removeing, going

going out, by rude gestures, and postures, or giving any other Offence?

4. Have any within your Parish been Married without Banns thrice asked, or lawful License in that behalf obtain'd? What Marriages have been Solemnized out of your Church at unlawfull hours, or in unlawfull places? Or what Persons being Married have committed, or been guilty of Fornication before Marriage? Declare what you know herein, such are to be presented as are known or much suspected to be Incestuous, or Married within Incestuous, or prohibited Degrees of Blood, Likewise you ought to Present Adulterers, Fornicators, Blaphemers, Common Swearers, Drunkards, Sorcerers, or Resorters to Sorcerers, Railers, Unclean and filthy Talkers, Sowers of strife and discord, do you Present all such, or those who are defamed, or suspected of such Crimes.

TITUL. III.

Inquirys about Church Officers, and other Persons.

1. **D**Oe your Parish-Clarke, and Sexton (if you have one) the Duty of their Office, decently and dutifully, and with respect and Obedience toward the Minister? Are they of honest Life and Conversation? Is your Parish Clark duly chosen by the Minister and Licensed by the Ordinary? Is he Aged twenty Years, can he Write and Read? Doth he orderly make Responses As required in the Service?

2. Is the Master of your Free-School, or any other School in your Parish Licensed by the Ordinary, and meet for that Office, as well for his Sobber and honest Conversation, as for his Learning, Dexterity and Soundness in the true Religion? Doth he Examine and Instruct his Scholars in the Catechism

set forth in the Common-prayer? Doth he himself diligently repair to the Church upon Sundays, and Holydays, and also see that his Schollers do the like, and that they behave themselves quietly and soberly during all the time of Divine Service and Sermon? doth any School-master, or other Person instruct or teach Youth in any private House, or Family, being not Lycensed, or not repairing to the Church as aforesaid.

3. Do any in your Parish practise *Physick* or *Chyrurgery*, or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a *Midwife*, without approbation and License from the Ordinary?

4. Are your *Church-wardens* and *Side-Men*, chosen according to the 89th. and 90th. Canon? Do they not continue in their place longer then a Year, except they be chosen again? Do your *Church-wardens* duly make Assessment for the necessary use of the Church, and immediatly before the Expiration of their Office, and their Successors entering thereupon, or within a Month after, at the most, before the Minister and the Parishioners give up a just Account of all such Moneys as they have Received, and also what particularly they have bestowed in reparations, and otherways for the use of the Church and truly deliver up to the Parishioners whatsoever Moneys or other things of Right belonging to the Church or Parish remaining in their Hands, upon the said Account, that they may be delivered over by them to the next Church-wardens by Bill indented?

5. Do both the Church-wardens and Side-men diligently see that all the Parishioners duly resort to the Church upon Sundays and Holy-dayes, and there continue the whole time of Divine Service, and that none walk or stand Idely, or Talk in or about the Church during that time? Do they Admonish such as are Negligent, (and if they Reform not) present them to the Ordinary?

6. Do they against every *Communion* appointed in your Church or Chappel, (having first consulted the Minister therein) provide a sufficient quantity of fine White-bread and good Wine according to the number of *Communicants*? And do they, or other fit Persons appointed for that purpose, whilst the Priest is Reading the Sentences for the Offertory gather and receive the Almes for the Poor, and other Devotions of the People, in a decent Bason to be provided by the Parish, and bring it to the Priest, who shall humbly present and place it upon the Table? Are such Almes disposed of to Pious and Charitable uses, as the *Minister* and *Church-wardens* shall think fit, otherwise as the *Ordinary* shall appoint?

7. Do they cause all Strangers that Preach in your *Church* or *Chappel*, to subscribe their Names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose? Together with the Names of the Bishops that Licensured them to Preach in their *Diocess*? And do they permit none other to Preach?

8. Do you know of any other Matter or Crime of *Ecclesiastical* Cognizance fit to be reformed, which is not here Expressd, or Inquired of in these *Articles*? You ought likewise to Present the same; The *Minister* also of every Parish may joine with the *Church-wardens* in Presenting Offences; and if the *Church-wardens* be so Irregular as not to do it, the *Minister* himself may do it.

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THE Church-wardens and Side men of every Parish, after they have received a Copy of these ARTICLES, they are to call in the Assistance of their Minister and with him to Read them over Carefully and Diligently; and then to examine the State of their Parish, as to all the things that are there Inquired of; such particulars as upon this Examination they shall find to be amiss, and to need Reforming, they are to set down in Writeing, together with the Names of the Offenders; and this without Fear or Favour, minding only the Glory of GOD and good of His Church. Which Account or Presentment so Written, they are to bring to the Visitation, and to deliver up under their Hands, and upon their Oaths.

The Rector, Vicar or Curate, of every Parish, may joyn with the Church-wardens and Side-men in Presenting Offences, and in case the Church-wardens neglect, or Refuse to do their Duty in this matter, they may Present alone; and it will become them so to do, as being chiefly intrusted with the care of Reforming abuses within their Parish. Vide Canon, 113.

All Ministers, School-Masters, Parish-Clarks, Church-Wardens, Chyrurgions, and Mid-wives are to appear at the Visitation, to be holden